

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE AFL-CIO AND AIFLD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAG: ELAB, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: TRADE UNION RIGHTS -- GOC GOES ANOTHER ROUND WITH EDUARDO
RIOS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 3957 (B) SANTIAGO 2937 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE LATEST MOVES TO UNSEAT EDUARDO RIOS AS PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF BAY EMPLOYEES (FEBACK) ENDED IN A DRAW JULY 7. RIOS REMAINS HEAD OF FEBACH, AND AS SUCH PRESIDENT OF THE MARITIME CONFEDERATION (COMACH) AND, WITH THESE TWO BASES, AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF TEN. HOWEVER, THE GOC HAS NOT WITHDRAWN ITS MARCH 3 ORDER APPOINTING FOUR PRO-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO THE FEBACK EXECUTIVE BOARD (A MAJORITY); THE REORGANIZATION OF THE FEBACK BOARD IS SUSPENDED, NOT QUASHED.

2. ON JULY 3 RIOS RECEIVED AN ORDER FROM THE ACTING PROVINCIAL LABOR INSPECTOR TO APPEAR THE FOLLOWING DAY, ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO RESOLVE THE PENDING DISPUTE ON BOARD MEMBERSHIP (SEE SANTIAGO 2937). THE FEBACK OFFICERS, RIOS
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TAPIA AND SALAS REFUSED TO ATTEND, SENDING THE FEDERATION LAWYER INSTEAD. TIOS WAS AT THE FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AS WAS LABOR MINISTER VASCO COSTA AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE GUILLERMO MEDINA. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE RIOS PROBLEM WITH VASCO COSTA AT THE RECEPTION. HE DESCRIBED IT AS PURELY A MATTER FOR THE LABOR INSPECTOR

BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DIFFICULTY COULD BE RESOLVED. FOLLOWING THE RECEPTION RIOS, MEDINA AND EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE, JORGE CASTILLO, CONTINUED THE CELEBRATION AT THE LATTER'S HOUSE. MEDINA, SEIZING ON THE ILLEGAL ASPECTS OF THE MINLAB INTERVENTION, IMMEDIATELY CALLED VASCO COSTA AND URGED HIM TO SEE THAT RIOS WAS NOT REMOVED FROM HIS FEBACH POSITON, AND CITED, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE UN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE. COSTA SAID HE HAD ALREADY TAKEN STEPS POSTPONE THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THAT DAY UNTIL JULY 7.

3. ON A PARALLEL TRACK AIFLD CPD BRUCE JAY INFORMED HIS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON. AS A RESULT BILL DOHERTY CALLED COSTA THE MORNING OF JULY 6. COSTA SEEMED DISPOSED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO DOHERTY'S INTERVENTION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING DAY JULY 7, WHEN THE LABOR INSPECTOR SUSPENDED FURTHER ACTION INDEFINITELY.

4. COMMENT: AFTER THE VISIT OF THE AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY TEAM HERE IN MAY AND COSTA'S OWN RECENT TRIP TO THE US, THE LABOR MINISTER IS WELL AWARE OF THE PRIORITY ATTACHED TO RIOS' TENURE BY THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT. INDEED ONE OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS OF THE MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO PINOCHET BY GLEASON AND CHAIKIN MAY 22 WAS ANNULMENT OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR DESIGNATING THE FOUR NEW MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE FEBACK BOARD. ONE WONDERS WHY, IF THE LABOR MINISTER COULD HALT PROCEEDINGS JULY 7, HE DID NOT DO SO EARLIER? IT MAY BE THAT COSTA SIMPLY DID NOT FOCUS ON THE IMMINENCE OF FINAL ACTION AGAINST RIOS UNTIL IT WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION BY MEDINA AND DOHERTY LAST WEEK. BUT IT MAY BE ALSO THAT COSTA SKILLFULLY ORCHESTRATED EVENTS TO MAKE A SHOWING OF HIS GOOD INTENTIONS TO THE US LABOR MOVEMENT AND, THUS, TO EARN SOME FUTURE CREDIT. AS MATTERS NOW STAND RIOS, TAPIA AND SALAS COMPOSE THE FUNCTIONING FEBACH BOARD AND RIOS REMAINS AS PRESIDENT. THE FOUR GOC-APPOINTEES ARE SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR; THEY HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BUT NOT INSTALLED. THE LATTER COULD STILL HAPPEN. LANDAU

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AFL-CIO.

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